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OAS Peace-Keeping Move Historic Action

FOG HAS SETTLED over the Dominican Republic where the Johnson administration has tried to end the revolution and so far has failed.

First, this brief background on a country which lived 31 years under a dictator and now has two "presidents":

From 1930 until his assassination in 1961 Gen. Rafael Trujillo was absolute dictator while those around him got rich in a land of poverty. There were, of course, no real political parties.

After his death the Dominicans struggled through four governments and then, in a free election chose Julian Bosch president. He lasted seven months until he was thrown out in 1963 by the military which scrapped the constitution and set up a five-man junta.

Although the United States recognized this junta, it lacked mass support and was heaved out in the revolution which began April 24. The military, defying the rebels, quickly set up another junta.

SKIPPING OVER the intervening weeks, this is the picture now:

There are two warring factions, the five-man civilian - military junta headed by Gen. Antonio Imbert Barrera as "president" and the rebels headed by Col. Francisco Caamano Dene as "president."

On April 28 President Johnson sent in Marines. At first he said they were there to save American lives; later he said they were there to prevent a takeover by Communists who, he explained, controlled the revolution.

Then on the weekend of May 15 he sent in his special adviser, McGeorge Bundy, a former Harvard dean, as his trouble-shooter. Bundy returned to Washington

Wednesday after 10 days in the Dominican Republic. He hadn't solved anything.

What he tried to do was get both sides to agree to a coalition government. To do this, the United States wanted the two leaders, Imbert and Caamano, to step down. But Imbert refused. This was a blow to Bundy and Johnson.

The United States had not only supported the Imbert junta — some say it was created at U.S. suggestion — but two weeks ago was considering recognizing it as the government.

BUT IMBERT reportedly lacked mass support and a week ago U.S. policy shifted support away from Imbert, urging that he and Caamano both step aside.

Caamano may have undergone a change of heart. In the past he had said he would step down but Wednesday he told newsmen no agreement had been reached on forming a coalition although, he said, his talks with Bundy had helped clear the way for a solution.

When Bundy came home he left the task of working out an agreement with both sides to Dr. Jose Moya, secretary-general of the Organization of American States.

Meanwhile, the OAS had voted 14 to 4 to send in a Latin-American peacekeeping force with troops from five countries, about 2,000 in all. As they move in the United States will withdraw about 1,700 of its 2,600 troops.

THE U.S. AMBASSADOR to the OAS, Elsworth Bunker, seems to see great things in store for the idea of an OAS peace-keeping force. This was the first time Latin-American countries had ever agreed to anything like this. He called it a "historic action."

hoped it would become a precedent for a permanent Latin American peacekeeping force. But the good chance it would fail for several reasons.

Not all Latin-American countries are happy with U.S. intervention in this case and, in fact, along with the United States, 11 years ago agreed to an OAS charter that no state has a right to intervene in any American state's internal problems for any reason.

When Johnson sent in the Marines he was going against this agreement signed by the United States, but the U.S. was also acting contrary to the charter.

And now the Johnson administration is beginning to waver on the idea that the Communist revolution and even some of its information about the revolution and even some of its information about the revolution.

The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency has the job of checking things like Communist activities in countries and Johnson probably relied on CIA information when he talked of Red control of the Dominican Republic.

But now the White House in effect acknowledged the failure of its policy. In there checking, to